

Welcome

USS MICHAEL MURPHY

(DDG 112)

“Navigator”

HO’OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Jon Dasbach, MC2 Sean Furey

# USS Michael Murphy, Navy’s newest destroyer, arrives at joint base

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The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) arrived Nov. 21 at its new homeport of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The newest destroyer honors Navy SEAL (sea, air, land) Lt. Michael P. Murphy, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan on June 28, 2005.

Murphy led a four-man team tasked with finding a key Taliban leader in the mountainous terrain near Asadabad, Afghanistan when they came under fire from a much larger enemy force with superior tactical position.

Mortally wounded while exposing himself to enemy fire, Murphy knowingly left his position of cover to get a clear signal in order to communicate with his headquarters. While being shot at repeatedly, Murphy calmly provided his unit's location and requested immediate support for his element. He returned to his cover position to continue the fight until finally succumbing to wounds.

"It is great to bring this ship home," said Cmdr. Tom Shultz, commanding officer of USS Michael Murphy and its crew of nearly 300 Sailors. "This ship and crew arrive home for the first time ready to do what our namesake, Lt. Michael Patrick

Murphy, did for this country and his teammates."

Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of Pacific Fleet; Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; and Capt. Wallace Lovely, deputy commander of Destroyer Squadron 31; greeted the crew of USS Michael

*"This ship and crew arrive home for the first time ready to do what our namesake, Lt. Michael Patrick Murphy, did for this country and his teammates."*

Cmdr. Tom Shultz

Murphy at the pier.

Speaking to the Sailors aboard USS Michael Murphy, Haney said, "I want to congratulate you on your arrival here and enjoy the Pacific Fleet *ohana*. Thanks to you and everyone here, including our Navy SEALs and the joint service operators. It's a thrill to be here today for your arrival of the Navy's newest and most advanced multi-mission destroyer, USS Michael Murphy."

For many Sailors aboard the destroyer, this was their first time in Hawaii. The ship and Sailors aboard USS Michael Murphy were deco-

rated with traditional Hawaiian lei as they pulled into Pearl Harbor. "Today as we came into port, it was like nothing I've seen before," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Hayleigh Mullins.

"We got hyped up, we've been waiting for this day, and no one slept last night. When we were coming in, we got to man the rails very early so we got to watch the whole travel into Hawaii, and it was very welcoming with ships whistling and everybody standing out. It was the best feeling in the world," Mullins said.

The naming of the Navy destroyer for Lt. Michael Murphy is one of several tributes to the Navy SEAL. Murphy has also been honored by having a park in Long Island named after him, a monument at a post office in his hometown dedicated to Murphy and the others who died; and a veterans' plaza in his name at Penn State University.

"USS Michael Murphy, the most flexible, lethal and multi-mission capable ship of its kind, represents the backbone of our surface combatant fleet," said Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations. "It is one of the best destroyers in the world."

"This ship will operate forward around the

globe, assuring allies, projecting power and defending our nation. And, like its namesake Lt. Michael Murphy, this ship will serve to protect, influence and win in an era of uncertainty," Greenert said.

Designated DDG 112, Michael Murphy is the 62nd Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, capable of conducting operations from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection.

The ship is capable of fighting air, surface and sub-surface battles simultaneously and will contain a myriad of offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime warfare.

The 9,200-ton Michael Murphy was built by General Dynamics Bath Iron Works. The ship is 509 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 59 feet, and has a navigational draft of 31 feet. Four gas turbine engines will power the ship to speeds in excess of 30 knots.



Photo illustration



Chief of Naval Personnel gets pulse of fleet in Hawaii  
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Local JROTC cadets fly with 535th Airlift Squadron  
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One year highlights: One team reaching together  
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Navy League Sea Service Awards honor military personnel  
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Sailors, Coast Guardsmen selected for 2013 Warrior Games Team  
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Tower Lighting celebration to include Tops in Blue  
**See page B-4**



# Local JROTC cadets fly with 535th Airlift Squadron



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from six high schools around Oahu board a C-17 Globemaster III operated by an aircrew from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Nov. 13. (Additional photos on page A-5.)

## SEAL of Honor

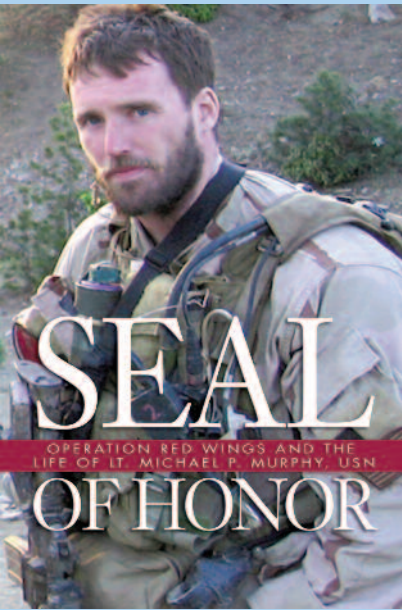
Gary Williams

Author

This essential category, warfighting first book tells the compelling tale of the late Navy SEAL, Lt. Michael Murphy. A young man of great character, he is the subject of Naval Special Warfare courses on leadership. An Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, naval base, school, post office, ball park and hospital emergency room have all been named in his honor.

In his bestselling book “Lone Survivor” (formerly listed on the CNO Professional Reading Program), Marcus Luttrell, the only survivor of Operation Red Wing, called Michael “the best officer I ever knew, an iron-souled warrior of colossal, almost unbelievable courage in the face of the enemy.”

“SEAL of Honor” tells the story of Murphy’s life and how he came to be a man of selfless courage and honor. This book offers a sterling example of Navy core values lived out in his life, his service, and his sacrifice. It’s a gripping and often emotionally moving book, and honors all who have made the ultimate sac-



rifice in the war against terrorism.

“SEAL of Honor” is listed on the CNO’s official Navy Reading List. The recently-commissioned USS Michael Murphy, named after Lt. Murphy, arrived Nov. 21 at its first homeport, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.)

# Chief of Naval Personnel gets pulse of fleet in Hawaii

Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Public Affairs

The Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Scott R. Van Buskirk spoke with Sailors at an all hands call held Nov. 16 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam’s historic Bloch Arena.

Van Buskirk is going fleet-wide to speak about key personnel policies, including force management initiatives, efforts to improve sea duty manning, and 21st Century Sailor and Marine programs.

“It’s a great opportunity to get the pulse from the fleet,” Van Buskirk said.

“We are hearing what the Sailors want to say and the issues that they are concerned about. As a result of what we are hearing, we’re doing things about it. We are working towards getting manning right in the fleet, working at delivering the manning with the critical skills that are necessary to ensure that our ships can fulfill their missions,” he said.

“We are aggressively attacking the issues that the fleet and our Sailors are concerned about, increasing manning where it needs to be, and focusing on those critical skills that the ships need to have out there,” he added.

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Melanie Beverly of Baton Rouge, La. said, “A lot of the questions were about PTS (perform to serve). There was a question about liberty and a detailer question,” she said.

“They’re trying to get more Sailors with more training to the ships. They’re trying to balance the workforce.”

“Today’s all hands call with Vice Adm. Van Buskirk was an opportunity



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Steven Khor

Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk spoke Nov. 16 at an all hands call at Bloch Arena at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

for Sailors interested in their career goals and Navy’s personnel policies,” said Navy Region Hawaii Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Marc Sibal.

“What are the voluntary and involuntary measures to reduce gaps at sea, and how will that affect shipmates? How are undermanned ratings being filled? What are the latest ways the Navy is trying to help Sailors and their families? These were just some of the questions and topics open for discussion,” Sibal said.

Van Buskirk also spoke about what makes duty in Hawaii unique.

“Hawaii will always be a pivotal homeport for our Navy. It has a storied place in our history, and in the future it will remain a cornerstone for Navy and our nation,” he said.

“It’s a tremendous honor and pleasure to be back in Hawaii,” Van Buskirk added.

“I’ve served over six years in this wonderful place, and every time I return I am

reinvigorated with the aloha spirit. It is always great to see old shipmates. It’s truly a wonderful place to live, a tremendous place to work, and in our Navy it is a wonderful place to operate out of,” he said.

Van Buskirk reinforced the message from Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jon Greenert about rebalancing to the Pacific.

“The Pacific region is vitally important to our global economy and commerce,” said Van Buskirk. “It’s an area that we will continue to have a tremendous amount of presence and engagement in, so as a result we are looking at the investment of where our ships are and where our people are to ensure we have it right.”

Summing up his all hands call in Hawaii, he said, “It’s a great opportunity to get the pulse from the fleet, about issues they are contending with, things that they want changed, things that are working well, and things they want to address.”







# Navy Region Hawaii names 2012 Sailors of the Year

Story and photos by  
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

The selectees for the Navy Region Hawaii Sailor of the Year for fiscal year 2012 were recently announced. Engineman 1st Class Tanner Baku was named Senior Sailor of the Year, Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Brian Schoffstall was named Junior Sailor of the Year, and Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Carmen Hernandez was named Bluejacket of the Year.

Hernandez, assigned to Commander Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) operations, joined the Navy in June 2010 and has been stationed here since January 2011. A Los Angeles native, she enlisted for a change of pace. While Hernandez is happy to be named Navy Region Hawaii Bluejacket of the Year, she is ambitious and already looking ahead.

"I feel some anxiety



(Left) Senior Sailor of the Year EM1 Tanner Baku called his time at Pearl Harbor "a once in a lifetime opportunity." (Center) Bluejacket of the Year IT3 Carmen Hernandez looks forward to the regional competition. (Right) RP2 Brian Schoffstall is a two-time Junior Sailor of the Year honoree.

because I still have to do the regionals," she said. "That would feel like even more of an accomplishment."

This is the second year in a row that Schoffstall has been named Sailor of the Year at Navy Region Hawaii.

"I was a little surprised," he said. "I'm separating in May 2013 to go into the Navy Reserves."

Schoffstall works at the Navy Region Hawaii chaplain's office. His Navy career path was an unusu-

al one.

"I was working a dead-end job in Washington, D.C.," he said. "I met the chief of chaplains of the United States Navy, a two-star admiral. He sort of recruited me."

In addition to the quality of his work, Schoffstall believes his volunteer work helped him to be named Sailor of the Year two years in a row.

"I volunteer at the USO monthly," he said. "I also volunteer at Pearl City Elementary with tutoring

and beautification projects and served as coordinator for the Feds Feed Families program."

Baku is assigned to the barge crew at CNRH. He said he was shocked to be named a Sailor of the Year.

"I'm just doing what I think of as normal duty," he said.

The Emmett, Idaho native always knew he wanted to serve his country, and the Navy was a natural choice.

"My grandfather was a

naval veteran who served during the Korean War," he said. "He was an engineer also and did exactly what I do."

Baku's Hawaii tour of duty ends this December.

"Serving at Pearl Harbor has been a once in a lifetime opportunity," he said.

An awards ceremony honoring the Sailors of the Year is planned, though no final date or location has been determined. In the meantime, Baku, Schoffstall and Hernandez

can take pride in their rare accomplishments.

"Being selected as the command's Sailor of the Year is one of the highest honors a Sailor can receive during their tour of duty," said Command Master Chief Marc Sibal.

"It represents hard work, professionalism and sacrifice. Only the best of the best get to earn the title Sailor of the Year, and every one of these outstanding Sailors deserve this recognition," he said.

## Joint base observes American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

Story and photo by  
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

November is American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. To commemorate, an event was held Nov. 20 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

The main speaker was Senior Chief Gas Turbine System Technician (GSCS) (SW) Travis C. Wolf of Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific. Wolf is originally from Alaska and is half Yup'ik, an Alaskan Native group.

Wolf started his presentation with a brief overview of American Indian and Alaska Native history from 1500 to the present. He addressed tragedies — such as the Trail of Tears in the early

1830s — and triumphs, including the 2004 opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

On a more personal note, Wolf talked about growing up in a small Alaskan town where more than half the residents were Alaska Natives.

Wolf also spoke about the contributions that Native Americans and Alaska Natives have made to the United States military.

"There are about 190,000 Native American veterans in the U.S. today," he said. "One out of every four Native Americans is a veteran. They have the highest per capita rate of military service of any ethnic group," he said.

Around 12,000 Native Americans and Alaska Natives



GSCS (SW) Travis Wolf displays items from his native Alaska.

serve in the military. Wolf believes native cultural values are part of the reason for these high rates of service.

"There is a warrior tradition that emphasizes virtues such as

strength, honor, devotion and wisdom," he said. "These values are a perfect fit with the military tradition."

The event concluded with a sampling of Alaska Native foods,

including venison and moose jerky, smoked salmon, fried bread and akutaq, which is also known as "Eskimo ice cream." On display were several items from Alaska, including animal pelts, native clothes and tribal art.

National American Indian Heritage Month originated in 1990 when President George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution. Similar proclamations have been issued every year since 1994.

The 2012 national theme, "Serving Our People, Serving Our Nations: Native Visions for Future Generations," encourages the nation to reflect and celebrate the cultures, histories and traditions of the indigenous peoples of North America, including parts of Alaska and Hawaii.



# Pearl Harbor-Hickam*Highlights*



(Left) Joint-service paratroopers jump out of a C-17 Globemaster III operated by an aircrew from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

(Below) Joint-service paratroopers walk onto a C-17 Globemaster III operated by an aircrew from the 535th Airlift Squadron.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen



Lt. Gen. Cha-Kyu Choi, Republic of Korea, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, and Burl Burlingame, Pacific Aviation Museum curator, unveil a ROKAF F-5A Freedom Fighter dedicated to Gen. Kim Too Man, a legendary figure in the ROKAF, at Pacific Aviation Museum, Ford Island, Hawaii on Nov. 12. The aircraft joins the museum's growing collection of more than 35 historic aircraft.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

(Below) A color guard detail parades the colors during the 52nd Annual Navy League Sea Service Awards Luncheon held Nov. 16 at the Ala Moana Hotel. Forty-two junior enlisted members and officers of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard received awards for leadership and outstanding service.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Diana Quinlan



(Above) The 52nd Annual Navy League Sea Service Awards winners stand in front of the audience after receiving their commendations during a luncheon Nov. 16 at the Ala Moana Hotel.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Diana Quinlan